

REMARKS

This amendment is filed in response to the Official Action mailed September 20, 2005. In view of the following remarks and amendments, reconsideration of the Examiner's rejections and Notice of Allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, Applicant extends his gratitude toward Examiner Lindsey for the courtesies exhibited during the telephonic interview with the undersigned on October 26, 2005. During the interview, the features of claim 1 were discussed along with the substance of U.S. Patent No. 3,381,308 issued to *Feinberg* ("*Feinberg*"). No agreement was met as to the allowability of claim 1 with respect to the *Feinberg* reference. Notwithstanding the comments of the undersigned with respect to the patentability of claim 1, in which the undersigned maintained the assertion that *Feinberg* does not teach the claimed elements, Applicant has elected not to further pursue the rejected claim 1 in the present application. Applicant has also elected not to further pursue the remaining rejected claims in the present application. Rather, Applicant has presented claims including only previously allowed subject matter, and reserves the right to file one or more continuation applications directed at the subject matter of the rejected claims.

In that regard, Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 27-52 are allowable as filed. Applicant also notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 2, 6, 14-17, and 21 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has rewritten the objected-to claims in independent form, such that each is believed to be in an immediate condition for allowance. In addition, Applicant has amended many of the rejected claims